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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:50:16 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 19, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1341 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: PRESIDENTS BUSH'S 3/18 ADDRESS, IRAQ,
AN AMERICAN DEATH IN ISRAEL, UAE FNC, AND ANTI-US
DEMONSTRATIONS
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01341

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:KVANDEVATE
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI314
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #1341/01 0781251
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 191251Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8952
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0607
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0665
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001341

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PRESIDENTS BUSH'S 3/18 ADDRESS, IRAQ,
AN AMERICAN DEATH IN ISRAEL, UAE FNC, AND ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS

11. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BUSH'S MARCH 18TH ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE GENERATED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRINT

AND SATELLITE MEDIA. 'AL KHALEEJ' CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF THE ADDRESS WHILE OTHER ENGLISH AND ARABIC DAILIES CARRIED LENGTHY EXCERPTS. AN 'AKHBAR AL ARAB' EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT THE BEST SACRIFICE SADDAM COULD MAKE FOR HIS COUNTRY IS TO STEP DOWN. OTHER EDITORIALS STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE U.S. DETERMINATION FOR WAR, NOTING THAT IRAQ IS ONLY THE BEGINNING AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WILL BE NEXT. EDITORIALS AND NEWS ALSO FEATURED LOCAL DEMONSTRATIONS, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ELECTED UAE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL (FNC) REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE KILLING OF AN AMERICAN PEACE ACTIVIST, RACHEL CORRIE, IN ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

12. ON 3/18, SEVERAL LOCAL ENGLISH AND ARABIC DAILIES REPORTED WITH PHOTOS A DEMONSTRATION IN RAS AL KHAIMAH AGAINST U.S. POLICIES IN THE REGION. COVERAGE ALSO INCLUDED AN ARTICLE ON STUDENT PLANS TO SEND A 30-METER LONG 'PEACE BANNER' TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

13. DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY 'GULF NEWS' ON 3/18 AND SEVERAL LOCAL ARABIC DAILIES ON 3/19 CARRIED INSIDE-PAGE ARTICLES CITING SHEIKH KHALED BIN SAQR AL QASIMI, RAS AL KHAIMAH (RAK) CROWN PRINCE AND DEPUTY RULER, AS SAYING THAT A YEAR FROM NOW, THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL (FNC) MEMBERS OF RAK WOULD BE ELECTED AND NOT APPOINTED.

14. CLAIMING IRAQ WILL BE A MODEL FOR WHOEVER DOES NOT ABIDE BY U.S. POLICIES IN THE FUTURE, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/19:

"... DURING THIS CRUCIAL TIME, FROM THE ELIMINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM INITIATED SIXTY YEARS AGO AFTER WORLD WAR II, SOMETHING THAT FELL WITH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION DECISION IN FOR A WAR ON IRAQ, TO A NEW AMERICAN SYSTEM, SOMETHING WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO IMPOSE ON THE WORLD. WHAT IS GOING TO FACE IRAQ DURING THIS WAR WILL BE THE 'IDEAL' MODEL THAT WILL BE IMPOSED ON ALL OPPONENTS, NAY-SAYERS, AND ALL PEOPLE REJECTING BRITISH-AMERICAN POLICIES ..."

15. COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S ULTIMATUM FOR WAR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ABU DHABI-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/19:

"... SACRIFICING FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR COUNTRY IS NOT ALWAYS BY GOING INTO BATTLES AND BECOMING A MARTYR, IT COULD ALSO BE REALIZED THROUGH SIMPLE SACRIFICES, SUCH AS A LEADER STEPPING DOWN FROM THE PRESIDENCY. ISN'T THIS A SACRIFICE A PRESIDENT CAN OFFER IN RETURN FOR AVERTING UNIMAGINABLE SUFFERINGS AND UNBELIEVABLE CONSEQUENCES FROM HIS OWN FELLOW CITIZENS? HE CAN SPARE HIS PEOPLE A DEAR PRICE ..."

16. COMMENTING ON A RECENT DEBATE BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR AND A NUMBER OF BRITISH WOMEN, KHALAF AHMED AL HABTOOR EDITORIALIZED IN 'GULF NEWS' ON 3/18:

"... IT WAS A SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE, NOT AS SUPERFICIAL AS WE ARE USED TO IN MANY OF THE SO-CALLED ARAB 'DEBATES' ... I ADMIT THAT MY ADMIRATION FOR THIS GREAT PEOPLE DOUBLED ... BUT I ALSO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I WAS OVERWHELMED WITH DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN I REMEMBERED THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE ARAB WORLD. WHEN I COMPARED THE INDIFFERENT AND BITTER ARAB STATUS TO THAT DEBATE, I FELT ENGULFED WITH FRUSTRATION ..."

17. IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED 'NOTING HUMANE QUESTIONS IN AN INHUMANE TIME,' "AL KHALEEJ" COMMENTED ON 3/18:

"... WHY DID THE PEACE ACTIVIST RACHEL CORRIE LEAVE HER COUNTRY AND COME TO PALESTINE TO TAKE A HUMAN STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, WHO ARE SUBJECT TO DAILY ATTACKS BY THE WAR CRIMINAL SHARON? WHY ARE OTHER PEOPLE LEAVING IRAQ, KUWAIT, SYRIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, LEAVING THEIR PEOPLE TO FACE THE FIRE OF THOUSANDS OF MISSILES AND BOMBS, INCLUDING 'THE MOTHER OF ALL BOMBS,' WHICH WEIGHS AROUND TEN TONS? THESE ARE HUMANE QUESTIONS IN AN INHUMAN TIME."

18. COMMENTING ON THE NOW-CLOSED DIPLOMATIC DOORS TO ANY SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS IN IRAQ, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/18:

"... WILL SADDAM DO IT? WILL HE BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTERESTS

OF HIS PEOPLE AND NOT HIS OWN? WILL HE LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF WISDOM AND REASON IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FOR YEARS NOW, AND WHO ARE STILL DREAMING THAT THIS WAR COULD BE AVOIDED? WILL SADDAM, AS HIS HABIT IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, BACK OFF AT THE LAST MINUTE AND GRANT MILLIONS OF IRAQIS THE HOPE THEY HAVE BEEN AWAITING SO LONG?"

[19](#). COMMENTING ON THE DEATH OF AMERICAN PEACE ACTIVIST RACHEL CORRIE, KILLED BY AN ISRAELI BULLDOZER, "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/18:

"... RACHEL IS UNIQUE. SHE CARRIED OUT A MISSION FILLED WITH NOBLE MEANING TO PALESTINIANS, ARABS, AMERICANS, MOTHERS AND FATHERS, AND ALSO TO ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD ... SHE DESERVES TO BE OFFICIALLY HONORED. SHE DESERVES TO BE REMEMBERED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE BECAUSE SHE IS REALLY IN THE HEARTS OF ALL ARABS AS A MOST NOBLE AND HONEST EMISSARY (FOR PEACE)."

WAHBA